UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/50/L.44
29 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 95 (c)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/50/L.27

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.27, the General Assembly would:

(a) Endorse the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on its second substantive session (Nairobi, 24 April-5 May 1995), which contains, inter alia, decision II/1 on the financing of the Conference and its preparatory activities; decision II/3 on the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee on the organization of work of the Conference, including the holding of pre-conference consultations on 1 and 2 June 1996 (para. 1);

(b) Decide that the third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 26 February to 8 March 1996 (rather than from 5 to 16 February 1996) to finalize the provisional agenda for the Conference, and to formulate the draft global plan of action to be adopted by the Conference, including a statement of principles and commitments as an integrated part of the plan of action (para. 2);

(c) Request the Secretary-General to make the necessary provisions, within existing resources, so that the Preparatory Committee may, if it so decides, establish two working groups to meet in addition to plenary meetings for the duration of the third session (para. 3).

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2. It should be noted that the holding of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference in New York instead of in Nairobi is in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/109 in which the Assembly approved an exception to the provision of its resolution 40/243 that United Nations bodies should meet at their established headquarters.

3. While under the terms of operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.27, the General Assembly would decide that the Preparatory Committee will hold its third session from 26 February to 8 March 1996 (rather than from 5 to 16 February 1996), neither facilities nor services are available on the new dates proposed. Under these circumstances, it is proposed to maintain the original dates of 5 to 16 February 1996, as contained in the draft calendar of conferences and meetings for 1996-1997 as proposed by the Committee on Conferences.

4. With regard to the establishment of two working groups to meet in addition to the plenary meetings of the Preparatory Committee, it is envisaged that the Preparatory Committee will now require a total of six meetings per day (three in the morning and three in the afternoon) with interpretation in all six languages, or an addition of two meetings to the four meetings per day originally proposed. However, it is expected that there will be no increase in the documentation needs of the Preparatory Committee.

5. With regard to the two-day pre-conference consultations, it is anticipated that there will be two meetings per day with full interpretation and an estimated 10 pages of documentation to be issued in all six languages.

6. The conference-servicing requirements for the above meetings would entail additional resources estimated at $181,300 at full cost.

7. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1996-1997. Provision is, however, made under section 26E (Conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparations, but also for meetings authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences are consistent with the pattern of meetings in previous years (para. 26E.4).

8. Consequently, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/50/L.27, no additional appropriation would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

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Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/50/L.45
29 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 96 (a)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.8

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 49/117 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and 49/119 on the International Day for Biological Diversity of 19 December 1994,

Recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1/

Recalling also Agenda 21, 2/ particularly its chapter 15 on the conservation of biological diversity and related chapters,

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1/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolution Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

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Recalling further the recommendations made at the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the review of chapter 15 of Agenda 21 on the conservation of biological diversity, 3/

Deeply concerned by the continuing loss of the world's biological diversity and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reiterating the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, and the sustainable use of its components, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

1. Welcomes the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Nassau, the Bahamas, from 28 November to 9 December 1994, as reflected in the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, 4/ submitted in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 49/117;

2. Takes note that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity has decided to accept the offer of the Government of Canada to host the secretariat of the Convention, and expresses its appreciation for the support offered by the Canadian authorities to ensure the effective functioning of the secretariat;

3. Takes note of the results of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris from 4 to 8 September 1995, including its medium-term programme of work for 1996-1997 and its contribution to the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

4. Calls upon those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to expedite their internal procedures of ratification, acceptance or approval;

5. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the results of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 6 to 17 November 1995, and also invites the Secretary to make the reports of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention available to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 230 (i).

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UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/50/L.46
29 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 95 (f)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Philippines*: draft resolution

Women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/204 of 17 December 1985, 42/178 of 11 December 1987 and 44/171 of 19 December 1989, as well as all other relevant Assembly resolutions on the integration of women in development, as well as the resolutions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the integration of women in development,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development, 1/

Recognizing the significant contribution that women make to economic activities and the major force that they represent for change and development in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas, such as agriculture, industry and services,

Emphasizing that empowering women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty, since women contribute to the economy through both their remunerated and unremunerated work,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ A/50/399.

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Recognizing that the economic and financial crisis that exists in many developing countries has resulted in the rapid feminization of poverty, especially in rural areas and in female-headed households,

Aware that women's continued lack of equal access to education and training, and their lack of control over land, capital, technology and other areas of production impede their full contribution to and opportunity to benefit from development,

Recognizing that the informal sector is a major source of employment for women in many developing countries,

Noting the important role played by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in the integration of women in development,

1. Welcomes the adoption of the Beijing Declaration 2/ and Platform for Action 3/ by the Fourth World Conference on Women;

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development; 1/

3. Notes with satisfaction the inclusion in the Platform for Action of critical areas of concern, namely, women in poverty, women in the economy, and women and the environment;

4. Stresses that a favourable and conducive international economic and financial environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the effective integration of women in development;

5. Calls upon all Governments to create an enabling environment to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities through, inter alia, the adoption of policy and legal measures and provisions of other necessary structures;

6. Requests the international community, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to assist developing countries by providing opportunities, including scholarships, to women and girls, in particular in the areas of science, technical and vocational training, so as to facilitate the full and effective contribution of women to development;

7. Urges multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks to review and implement policies to ensure that a higher proportion of measures reach women in rural and remote areas.

2/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

3/ Ibid., annex II.